



National Transportation Safety Board

## The Chairman's Corner

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Friday, May 30, 2008

### Go Team Launches on Train Accident in Massachusetts



*An aerial view of the MBTA train collision*

The NTSB launched a major rail Go Team to the site of a collision between two Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority light rail trains in Newton, Massachusetts on May 28. The operator of one of the trains was killed in the accident, and more than a dozen passengers went to the hospital, but none are believed to have serious injuries. Wayne Workman (RPH) is serving as IIC, with the following investigators comprising the remainder of the team: Dick Hipkind, Jeff Leaman, Ruben Payan, Dave Watson, Dana Sanzo and Rick Narvell, all from RPH. Member Kitty Higgins accompanied the team and served as principal spokesperson. Also accompanying the team were Peter Knudson (PA), Max Green (TDA), Member Higgins' Special Assistant Denise Daniels, and Jim Southworth (RPH).



*Member Higgins and NTSB Staff addressing the media*

### NTSB Testifies on Capitol Hill

Board Member Kitty Higgins testified before the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Marine Transportation on May 20. The hearing focused on the Coast Guard's accident investigation activities and the Safety Board's marine reauthorization proposal. The proposal would codify the current MOU with the Coast Guard into statute. Also testifying were representatives from the US Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General's office.

### Chairman Rosenker Participates in Operation Lifesaver Train Ride



On May 20th, Chairman Mark Rosenker and Railroad Safety Investigator Ruben Payan participated on a special train ride in the state of Illinois to promote safety at highway grade crossings and to call attention to the need to reduce trespasser fatalities on railroad tracks. The special event was sponsored by Operation Lifesaver and the Union Pacific Railroad. The Chairman noted that last year alone, 816 people in the United States died at highway/grade crossings or by walking along railroad tracks - 339 fatalities at highway crossings and 477 trespassers. Chairman Rosenker encouraged the railroad, Operation Lifesaver representatives and public officials to help establish or improve public education programs in communities.

*Chairman Rosenker and Ruben Payan stand by a highway grade crossing*

## ***Member Hersman Promotes Child Safety Seat Usage***

On May 15th, Member Debbie Hersman and Stephanie Davis (SRA) joined Safe Kids Montgomery County at the Fitzgerald Auto Mall in Rockville, Maryland for a hands-on car seat clinic designed to teach parents how to best secure their children in vehicles. Safe Kids Montgomery County and Fitzgerald Auto Mall have a long history of making vehicle safety programs a priority in the community. This spring they reached a significant milestone by checking their 35,000th child safety seat for proper installation. Mitchell R. Stoller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Safe Kids Worldwide and Stephen O'Toole, General Motors Corporation were also in attendance.

On May 13th, Governor Martin O'Malley signed legislation that requires children in Maryland to be in a child safety seat up to their 8th birthday, unless they weigh more than 65 pounds or are 4'9" or taller. This effort was led by many community advocates in Maryland, including Safe Kids Montgomery County's Emilie Crown. Both Mrs. Crown and Mr. Fitzgerald testified in support of the legislation and worked to make the bill as strong as possible to protect Maryland's children.



***Member Hersman presented Jack Fitzgerald, Proprietor, Fitzgerald Auto Malls, and Emilie Crown, Coordinator, Safe Kids Montgomery County with letters of congratulations on behalf of the Safety Board for the success of their monthly hands-on car seat clinic program and their efforts to support the child passenger safety legislation in Maryland.***

## ***Do You Have a Child Turning Age 22 Soon?***

When your child reaches age 22, he or she will immediately lose coverage under your Federal health plan. They will have a 31-day extension of coverage.

Your child will be eligible to elect temporary continuation of Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) coverage or may elect to convert to an individual plan. The premiums for the FEHB temporary coverage is 102% of what you pay - 100% of the premium plus a 2% administrative charge.

You should notify the Human Resources Division when a family member is approaching age 22 to determine if your current coverage needs to be adjusted.

For further information, please contact Lisa Kleiner, Benefits and Worklife Advisor on (202) 314-6462 or [Lisa.Kleiner@NTSB.gov](mailto:Lisa.Kleiner@NTSB.gov)

